

# NEWS RELEASE

## USDA Forest Service Santa Fe National Forest

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For Immediate Release:

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### **Santa Fe National Forest Firefighters Stay Ahead of Lightning Starts**

Firefighters in the Santa Fe National Forest are responding Friday morning to three new lightning-started fires.

Tom Johnston, Acting Fire Management Officer for the forest said that both the Manco Fire in Santa Fe Watershed and Mosco Fire in the Pecos Wilderness were about 1/10-acre in size. Firefighters have hiked into the watershed fire and two repellers have been sent to the Mosco Fire. Engines have been sent to a third 1/10-acre start, the Dry Lake Fire, in the northwest corner of the Cuba Ranger District, Johnston added.

During the past week firefighters in the Santa Fe National Forest have responded to more than a dozen lightning-caused new fires, and have been able hold acreage burned in the forest to a minimum. The two largest fires were the Chaparral Fire and San Antonio Fire, both located in the Cuba Ranger District. They are now in a controlled state and are less than 20 acres in size.

The cause of the Chaparral Fire is still under investigation, but the remainder of the reported fires were lightning starts associated with increased thunderstorm activity in the Santa Fe National Forest this week.

In addition to the three new starts today firefighters in the forest are working on three older lightning-caused fires. The Gallina Fire on the northern forest boundary near the Rio Chama was reported this morning at 4.5 acres with both smoke and fire behavior subsiding overnight. The San Luis Fire in the Valle Caldera and Bruce Fire in the Jemez Ranger District are singletree lightning starts in remote areas that are being monitored by fire personnel.

Even with the recent rain showers, forest fuels remain at dangerously dry levels, and visitor to use extreme caution. Traditionally June is worst fire month in New Mexico with more fires and more acreage burned.

For more fire information: go to [www.nmfireinfo.com](http://www.nmfireinfo.com) or call 877-971-3473.

